

CHINA'S PROPOSED ANTI-
SECESSION LAW**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in expressing my grave concern over China's proposed anti-secession law. This highly provocative law greatly increases the risk of a military confrontation across the Taiwan Strait. Specifically, it assumes China and Taiwan are now unified, and it gives China the right to punish anyone expressing separatist sentiments or engaging in separatist activities. Ultimately, China may use force to push for unification with Taiwan, a scenario we all must work to prevent. This law would have serious consequences for relations between China and Taiwan, and it would threaten stability in the region.

In my district, Idaho State University has developed a unique program, the only program of its kind in the United States, to provide a language and cultural education program for junior diplomatic officers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I have spent time discussing the American political system and current events in Taiwan with the junior diplomats, and they have repeatedly expressed their country's desire to avoid confrontation with China. These students look to the United States as a model of freedom and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, we do not need military confrontation in the Taiwan Strait now or anytime in the future. I urge the Chinese leaders to reject the anti-secession law, and I hope the international community will join us in voicing their disapproval of this provocative and dangerous law. Inaction by the United States will only serve to encourage China to escalate its political rhetoric and belligerent action against the democratic Taiwan.

TRIBUTE TO THE CENTRAL
BRANCH OF THE ST. LOUIS PUB-
LIC LIBRARY**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Central Branch of the St. Louis Public Library. I am extremely honored to commend them for being recognized as one of the 12 most beautiful and historic libraries in the world. They further hold the distinction as being only one of three U.S. libraries chosen for this honor.

The Central Library building is one of St. Louis's architectural treasures. Architect Cass Gilbert who was the architect for the Saint Louis Art Museum, the U.S. Supreme Court Building in Washington, DC, and the Woolworth Building in New York City was selected to design the building, which opened in 1912.

The Central Branch occupies one city block and features beautiful stained glass windows, hand-stenciled ceilings and glass floors. The exterior of the building is granite with marble panels and relief carvings, decorative medallions, notable authors and inspirational inscriptions. The Periodical Room's carved ceiling is

adapted from Michelangelo's design for the ceiling of the Laurentian Library in Florence and boasts more than 800 current magazines and newspapers.

While an architectural marvel, the library also assists the community with bridging the link between all cultures and nationalities by providing special services to Bosnian, African, Hispanic, German and Asian members of the community through extensive access to books and films in their own language. The Library is also involved in community outreach efforts providing book services to day care and senior centers. It also provides the gift of reading to those who are home-bound by operating bookmobiles and sending books through the mail.

Mr. Speaker, the Central Branch of the St. Louis Public Library has been recognized for its historic beauty and architectural wonder, and its commitment to serving an ever changing landscape of cultures and nationalities; it deserves to be honored for its vital role in educating the leaders of tomorrow.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
WILLIAM D. PAYNE**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the life and work of a man whose many achievements I am proud to recognize today, the Honorable William D. Payne. Assemblyman Payne was recognized as a recipient of the Essex County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award. It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on Earth.

After completing a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at Rutgers University, Bill began his professional career with the Essex County Welfare Board as a caseworker. His commitment to public service commenced during his tenure as a caseworker and continues today.

Bill's involvement in politics started long before his career in the New Jersey Legislature. As the chairman of the Payne Congressional Campaign Committee in 1988, Bill successfully led the effort to elect his brother, DONALD, to the United States House of Representatives. This was not only a victory for the Payne family, but one for the African American community of New Jersey as well. DONALD PAYNE was the first African-American elected to represent New Jersey in the House of Representatives.

Bill has held several positions that exemplify his devotion to his community. As executive director of One to One New Jersey, Bill oversaw a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging volunteerism and mentoring among New Jersey adults. The participants in the program worked to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged youths and their families.

His commitment to the Essex County community was evident during his tenure with the Essex County Improvement Authority and the Newark Housing Authority, the country's 8th largest public agency. Bill has also donated his time to the Greater Newark Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee, the United

Negro College Fund Corporation Committee and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York Small Business Advisory Council.

Prior to his election to the New Jersey General Assembly, Bill had transitioned into the private sector, establishing William Payne and Associates. Having an extensive background in community service, international government relations and the corporate world; Assemblyman Payne's company specializes in government relations and marketing.

In 1998, William Payne reached the pinnacle moment of his career, when he was elected to represent the 29th Legislative District of New Jersey. Bill holds many positions within the legislature including Commissioner of the Amistad Commission. This commission is a result of his diligent efforts to pass The Amistad Act, a law which requires the inclusion of African-American history in the year-round curriculum for New Jersey's public schools.

The County of Essex and I are far from the first to recognize the many accomplishments of Assemblyman Payne. He has been honored by many community organizations including The Jaycees, the NAACP, The North Ward Cultural Center and the Newark Board of Education to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the extraordinary efforts of public servants like Bill Payne. I ask that you join our colleagues, Bill's family and friends, the great County of Essex, New Jersey and me in recognizing Assemblyman William D. Payne for his long history of leadership and community service.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
JO ANN DAVIDSON**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Jo Ann Davidson has been selected to serve as the co-chairman of the national Republican Party; and,

Whereas, Jo Ann Davidson was the first woman to serve as Speaker of the Ohio House, maintained a 20 year career in the Ohio House, and was a driving force behind the passage of a complex electricity deregulation bill in 1999; and

Whereas, Jo Ann Davidson should be commended for her work during the grassroots efforts of the 2004 Ohio Republican Party campaign in the Ohio Valley region.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Jo Ann Davidson for her outstanding appointment.

LEADER IN EDUCATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Dr. Pete Mehas, of Fresno California. Dr. Mehas has been Fresno

County's Superintendent of Schools since 1990, and is being honored by the Kremen School of Education and Human Development.

Dr. Mehas was born and raised in Fresno, graduated from Fresno High in 1957, and earned his Bachelor's degree from California State University, Fresno. He continued his education at University of California, Los Angeles, where he received his Master's degree, and went on to University of Southern California, where he secured a Doctorate in Education.

Pete has served the public for many years as an educational advocate. He was Secretary of Education to Governor George Deukmejian, and also a member of the California State Board of Education and Board of Governors for California Community Colleges.

His efforts have not gone unnoticed—Dr. Mehas has been appointed by four presidents and three governors to major commissions, boards, and advisory committees committed to making education a priority throughout our Nation. He has appeared on national television's NBC's "Today" show and ABC's "Good Morning America," and was the only educator invited to address the National Republican Convention in Houston, Texas in 1992.

Dr. Mehas' accomplishment list is long and includes USC School of Education Distinguished Lecturer, CSU Fresno School of Social Science Distinguished Alumni Award, Honorary Life Member in the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, NAACP Presidents Award, Rose Ann Vuich Ethical Leadership Award, and most recently the Kremen School of Education and Human Development "Noted Alumni Recipient" for significant contributions in the field of education.

His efforts have been exhaustive, and we are continually lucky that his family, wife Demi and daughters Alethea and Andreanna have been willing to share all that Dr. Mehas has to offer—he has made an amazing impact on our community.

SIKH LEADER AGAIN SPEAKS OUT FOR FREEDOM FOR KHALISTAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, there are encouraging developments in the fight for freedom for minorities in India. It looks like the people of Nagaland are making progress in their negotiations with India to achieve autonomy. This is a potentially significant development that will begin, at long last, the unraveling of the web of Indian oppression. Can Kashmir and Khalistan be far behind?

To add to this, the fire of freedom continues to burn as brightly as ever in Punjab, Khalistan. On December 7, a Sikh leader named Simranjit Singh Mann, who is a former Member of India's Parliament and has held events right here in the Capitol and met many Members of Congress, again spoke out for independence for the Sikh homeland, Khalistan. Mr. Mann put his party, the Akali Dal, Amritsar, on record for independence. He pledged that he would lead a peaceful movement for independence, which he said was a dream of the Sikh people that "will be mate-

rialized one day." It looks like that day is getting closer.

The government of Punjab acted last year to cancel all water agreements with the other states in India, by which Punjab's water was being diverted to those other states. In so doing, they declared the sovereignty of the state of Punjab. Imagine that, Mr. Speaker. They are openly claiming their sovereignty. This is good to see.

Mr. Speaker, when India became independent, the Sikhs were supposed to get an independent state in Punjab. But the Indian leaders assured them they would have "the glow of freedom" there, so they stayed with India. Well, that "glow of freedom" has taken the lives of over 250,000 Sikhs as well as over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 89,000 Kashmiri Muslims, and tens of thousands of other minority people. It has resulted in 52,268 Sikhs being held as political prisoners under a repressive law called TADA that expired in 1995. It is time for real freedom for the Sikhs, the Nagas, the Kashmiris, and all people in the subcontinent.

The essence of democracy is self-determination. If India wants to be treated as a democracy, it must allow self-determination and all other rights to all its citizens. We should not provide any money to India until it does. In 1948, India promised to hold a plebiscite to let the people of Kashmir decide their status. It's now 56 years later and they are still waiting. Similarly, the demand for self-determination in Khalistan, in Nagaland, and elsewhere has been met with nothing but violent resistance. Is that democracy, Mr. Speaker? Is that freedom?

The Tribune, a newspaper in Chandigarh, Punjab, carried excellent coverage of Mr. Mann's remarks in its December 8 issue. I would like to place that article in the RECORD at this time for the information of my colleagues.

[From the (Chandigarh, India) Tribune, Dec. 8, 2004]

MANN REVERTS TO SOVEREIGN PUNJAB THEME

LUDHIANA, Dec. 7.—Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) supremo Simranjit Singh Mann yesterday reverted to the theme of sovereign Punjab, declaring that his party would launch a peaceful movement to realise this dream. He said his party had never given up the demand for a separate and sovereign Punjab as the Sikhs' was a separate nationality, foundations of which had been laid down by Guru Gobind Singh himself.

Mr. Mann, who was here to preside over a meeting of the party office-bearers at Gurdwara Akalgarh, said to ensure lasting peace in South Asia in the face of deep hostility between "Hindu civilisation (India) and Muslim civilisation (Pakistan)", it was in the interest of the people of the region to create a neutral and buffer sovereign state.

He maintained that the foundations for a separate sovereign Sikh state had been laid down by Guru Gobind Singh and Banda Singh Bahadur followed by Maharaja Ranjit Singh. This dream was furthered by "Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale" and "would be materialised one day". He said since both Pakistan and India had nuclear weapons, it was necessary that some buffer state should be created so that the two countries did not come face to face with each other.

Mr. Mann refused to give the geographical outline of the "sovereign state" envisioned by him. He evaded an answer to a question whether it included the part of the state which is now with Pakistan.

Welcoming the close cooperation between the Pakistani Punjab and the Indian Punjab, Mr. Mann claimed it was he who had initiated this move by demanding way back in 1990 that the border between the two Punjabs should be opened up for the people to cross over.

To a question on the demand of the Dal Khalsa that ban on cow slaughter in Punjab should go, Mr. Mann said he or his organisation had nothing to do with that organisation (Dal Khalsa). At the same time, he said, he or his party would not like to hurt the sentiments of a majority of people as "Hindus held the cow to be sacred and their sentiments should be respected".

Mr. Mann also accused Shiromani Akali Dal leader Parkash Singh Badal of having connived with Hindu organisations in demolishing the Babri mosque. He alleged that Mr. Badal had sent a special jatha, led by Mr. Avtar Singh Hit, to Ayodhya on December 6, 1992, to join the kar sevaks for demolishing the Babri mosque.

IN HONOR OF JOE HARRIS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life-long service of Joe Harris. Mr. Harris, hailed as a man who always put everyone before himself, spent the last 34 years of his life serving my constituents as a fire fighter in the City of Denton, Texas. Mr. Harris not only served the people of Denton County but also his family and co-workers with the encouragement, warmth and generosity that defined his life.

The recent death of Mr. Harris came after years of fighting cancer. He had recently retired so he could spend more time with his family. During his career as a public servant, Mr. Harris took pride in each task that he was given. His contagious personality and love for those whom he saw day after day went far beyond his call of duty. A life-long citizen of my district, Mr. Harris served not only my constituents but our country in the United States Coast Guard. Mr. Harris was steadfast in his life of service, and I have no doubt that he has inspired everyone who came to know him.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand here today to commemorate the life of Joe Harris; one of our fellow public servants. May his work be a guide and inspiration to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 31, I had thought that I had voted and that the machine had accepted my vote. Apparently, it did not; therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD show that had my vote been accepted, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 31.